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AN ETHIOPEAN FARCE

IN ONE ACT,

— BY —

A. NEWTON FIELD,

WITH CAST OF CHARACTERS, ENTRANCES AND EXITS, RELATIVE POSITIONS OF THE PERFORMERS ON THE STAGE, DESCRIPTION OF COSTUME, AND THE WHOLE OF THE STAGE BUSINESS, AS PERFORMED AT THE PRINCIPAL AMERICAN AND ENGLISH THEATRES.

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TWAIN'S DODGING.

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IN ONE ACT,

BY

A. NEWTON FIELD,

AUTHOR OF,

School, The Hominy Man, Those Awful Boys, Other People's Children, Reverses, The New Magdalen, The Yankee Duelist, etc.

With cast of Characters, Entrances and exits, as performed at the Opera House, Clyde, Ohio.

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(1880)

TWAIN'S DODGING.

Cast of Characters as performed at the Opera House, Clyde, Ohio, 1880.

Twain.....*A. Newton Field*
Old Hardlife.....*W. H. Arlin*
John Dodge.....*Jerry Hunt*
Miss Hardlife.....*Frank West*

COSTUMES.—Extravagant negro, to suit the characters.

PROPERTIES.—A table, several chairs, newspaper, bell, tray, cup and saucer, pitcher of water, money, stuffed club.

Time of performance, twenty minutes.

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TWAIN'S DODGING.

—o—

ACT I.

SCENE FIRST.—*Chamber, table* R. C., *two chairs,* R. *and* L. *of table. Bell on table.—Hardlife discovered with newspaper seated* L. *of table.*

Hardlife. Confound the girl! After years of hard labor, to educate her, she is going to marry against my wishes. But, (*tragically*) ere the setting of another sun, she shall be a prisoner until she does. Marry John Dodge, indeed! As if my daughter should stoop so low as to marry a Dodge. No such dodging for me. (*looks at paper—pulls out watch*) Half past eight, and no breakfast yet. Here, Twain, you rascal! Twain! Twain, I say! (*rings bell violently*) Twain, come here!

Enter Twain L. 2 E., *slowly.*

Twain. Hum!

Hard. Where is my breakfast, you imp?

Twain. Your breakfass am in de kitchen, I suppose.

Hard. Were you aware that I have had none this morning?

Twain. Neither have I had any.

Hard. That, sir, is nothing. You know my business hours, and should see that I have my breakfast in time every morning.

Twain. Is dat so?

Hard. Yes, sir, that is so. (*stamps foot*) Do you hear? My breakfast!

Twain. Yes, I hear your breakfass. You needn't make such a fuss about it.

Hard. Well, go and fetch it immediately!

Twain. Fetch it here?

Hard. Yes, you block-head, where else would you fetch it?

Twain. I fly. (*goes slowly* L. 2 E., *and exit.*

Hard. Did ever a man in the world have as much trouble before, with stupid servants?

Re-enter Twain. L. 2 E.

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Twain. What do you want for breakfass?
Hard. Some tea and some toast, will do.
Twain. Do you want yer toast buttered?
Hard. Of course I do.
Twain. I fly. (*exit* L. 2 E.
Hard. I will call that silly girl, and tell her what she may expect from me if she disobeys me. (*goes* R. 2 E. *calls*) Molly, come here!

Enter Molly, R. 2 E.

Molly. Good morning, papa, I thought you had gone.
Hard. Well, you see I'm not, and whats more, I shall stay here all day and prevent any interviews between you and that fool Dodge.

Enter Twain, L. 2 E.

Twain. Do you want yer toast toasted?
Hard. Of course I do, you fool.
Twain. Well, don't get so confounded mad, I shan't hurt you.
Hard. Come, be gone!
Twain. I fly. (*exit* L. 2 E.
Hard. As I was saying, I have had an offer for your hand, and I mean that you shall marry no one but Casper Plane—Do you hear?
Molly. Well, dad, I've had an offer for my hand, and I mean to marry no one but John Dodge. Do you hear?
Hard. What! Do you mean to defy me, you ungrateful baggage?
Molly. (*sitting* R. *of table*) That's just about the size of it, pop, and I don't care whether you are pleased or not.

Enter Twain, L. 2 E.

Twain. What did you say you wanted besides toast and butter?
Hard. I said I wanted some tea.
Twain. What kind of tea. Hot or cold?
Hard. Hot tea, of course.
Twain. Do you want any milk or sugar?
Hard. Certainly I do. Come hurry.
Twain. I fly. (*exit* L. 2 E.
Hard. Now, Molly, I say you shan't marry anybody but Casper, and if you don't say here, and now, that you will do as I bid you, I shall lock you up in your room till you do, and you shall have nothing to eat but bread and water. Do you hear, miss? Bread and water.
Molly. I don't get much better now. But give me until to-night to think of it.
Hard. Very well, I shall go down town as soon as I have eaten, and shall not be back till night, so you can make up your mind as I dictate, or suffer the consequences.

Enter Twain, L. 2 E.

Twain. What kind of tea do you want, green or black?
Hard. Green tea, you whelp.
Twain. There's no green tea.
Hard. Then give me the blackest you've got.

Twain. I fly. (*exit* L. 2 E.

Hard. You can go to your room, Molly. I have no more to say except that you shall marry no one but Casper Plane.

Molly. (*going* R.—*aside*) And I know I shall marry no one, but my dear little John Dodge. (*exit Molly,* R. 2 E.

Hard. I'll have Twain watch her to-day, and see that no one comes near her.

Enter Twain, L. 2 E.

Twain. There ain't no black tea.

Hard. Well, what have you got that is fit for a hog to drink?

Twain. Swill.

Hard. Silence, you rascal! Havent you any tea at all?

Twain. Yes.

Hard. What kind is it?

Twain. Japan-Young Hyson-Twankey———

Hard. Why the devil didn't you bring some of that long ago? Come, no more of this nonsense. I am in a hurry.

Twain. I fly. (*exit* L. 2 E.

Hard. The fool! I wonder if he thinks I can stay here all day.

Enter Twain, L. 2 E., *with tray, cup aud saucer.*

Hard. Where is the toast?

Twain. Oh yes, I forgot. (*exit* L. 2 E. *with tray.*

Hard. I hope he has it right this time.

Enter Twain, L. 2 E.

Twain. Here's your breakfast, sir.

Hard. There's the table, put it down. (*Twain sits on table, and drinks out of cup*) Set those things on the table, and don't touch them, do you hear?

Twain. Eh!

Hard. Put them on the table, and go!

Twain. Put these things on de table?

Hard. Yes. (*Twain puts tray on table—Hardlife picks up cup*) Now go! (*tasets tea*) Stop! Go and get me some boiling water.

Twain. Some boiling water?

Hard; Yes, this tea is too strong.

Twain. I fly. (*exit* L. 2 E.

Hard. Confound a fool, say I!

Enter Twain, L. 2 E.

Twain. Do you want your boiling water boiled?

Hard. Heavens, Twain! I'll smash your head, if you come back again with such questions. Go and get the water.

Twain. I fly. (*exit* L. 2 E.

Hard. I'll break every bone in that fellows body, some of these days, if he don't do better. (*he eats.*

Enter Twain L. 2 E. *with pitcher.*

Twain. Here's yer water, sar. Where do you want it?

Hard. Give it here. (*pours water in teacup*) See here, Twain! I

want you to watch Molly to-day, and see that John Dodge don't see her. Do you hear?

Twain. Yes. I'm to watch Molly, and see that no one but John Dodge sees her, eh?

Hard. If he comes, you say she's not at home.

Twain. All right.

Hard. (*putting on hat*) Now remember, don't let John Dodge into the house, or I'll break your neck. (*exit* R. 1 E.

Twain. (*feeling his neck*) Not much, he'll not break my neck.

Enter Molly, R. 2 E.

Molly. Good morning, dear Twain! You are looking very sweet this morning, ain't you dear?

Twain. I guess so. How do you think you look?

Molly. Twain, do you like me much?

Twain. Yes, some.

Molly. If you'll do me a favor to-day, I'll do anything you wish me to, Twain dear.

Twain. What's the favor you want me to do?

Molly. Well, will you do it?

Twain. Will you give me a smack, if I do?

Molly. Yes.

Twain. A smack right on the mouth?

Molly. Yes.

Twain. Well, I'll take the smack now.

(*opens his arms and approaches her.*

Molly. No! I don't want to smack you before you do what I want.

Twain. Well, what is it?

Molly. There will be a young man here to see me, and when he comes, show him up to this room, will you?

Twain. Is it John Dodge?

Molly. Yes, it is.

Twain. I can't let him in.

Molly. Oh, but won't you, Twain. Remember the smack.

Twain. Well, give it to me now, and I'll let him in.

(*kneels down and holds up his hands.*

Molly. Put down your hands! (*Twain drops his hands*) Now, one, two, three. (*slaps him on the mouth as*

Enter John Dodge, L. U. E.

Twain. That was a good smack.

John. My darling Molly! How happy I am to see you.

(*embraces Molly,* C.

Twain. (R.) Be you John Dodge?

John. Yes sir, that is my name.

Twain. Well, I was told not to let you in, but you have got in without my knowing it, and as the old man said nothing about putting you out, I guess you can stay, but I'm going to watch you.

John. (*taking out money*) Twain will you go and get me a cigar if you please? You can keep the change.

Twain. (*takes money*) Yes, I don't mind. (*exit* L. 2 E.

John. Now Molly, let us have a kiss.

(*Molly* R. *John* L., *run and meet* C., *are just about to kiss when*

Enter Twain, L. 2 E.

Twain. I saw you, and I'm going to tell. (*going* L.
John & Molly. (*stopping him*) Oh, don't Twain!
Twain. Well, what'll you give me?
John. A cigar.
Twain. I don't smoke.
John. Then I'll give you half a dollar.
Twain. That ain't half enough.
John. Then I'll give you a dollar.
Twain. Well, give it here.
John. (*giving him money*) Now get me my cigar.
Twain. I fly. (*exit* L. 2 E.
Molly. Now, John dear, we must have that kiss.
(*they embrace* C. *and are again seen by Twain.*

Enter Twain, L. 2 E.

Twain. Oh now I caught you again. Give me another dollar.
John. Come now, Twain, you'll rob me. I did give you a dollar.
Twain. Then I'll go and tell. (*goes* L. *John and Molly stop him.*
Molly. Oh, John dear, give him the dollar, or he will surely tell.
Twain. Yes, I'll surely tell.
John. Well, here's your dollar. Now go and get my cigar, will you?
Twain. I fly. (*exit* L. 2 E.
John. Now let us kiss.
Molly. No, he'll be back. Let us fool him, and only go half way.
John. All right. (*they move toward each other, stop half way from* C.

Enter Twain, L. 2 E.

Twain. I caught you again. Give me another dollar.
Molly & John. No we didn't, we only went half way. (*laugh.*
Twain. Den give me half a dollar.
John. No indeed, I won't.
Twain. (*looking* R.) Here comes de ole man. I guess you'd better git.

Molly screams and runs out R. 2 E. *John is trying to get under the table, and is held back by Twain. Enter Hardlife* R., *pounds John and Twain with club.*

CURTAIN.

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